Contents

1 Migration of Labour in the Global South: An Introduction ........ 1
    Linking Migration Causes to Migration Outcomes .................. 5
    Conceptualizing Migration as a Social Process .................... 9
    Researching Bangladeshi Migration ................................ 13
    Research Methodology ............................................. 19
    Fieldwork in Singapore ............................................. 20
    Fieldwork in Bangladesh .......................................... 21
    Structure of the Book .............................................. 23

2 Immigration and Integration Policy in Singapore ................. 27
    Immigration Research in Singapore ................................ 28
    Nature of Immigration Policy ...................................... 31
    Broader Features of Immigration Policy in Singapore .............. 32
    Classes of Non-resident Foreign Manpower in Singapore .......... 38
        Employment Pass (EP) and Special (S) Pass for Professional
        and Skilled Foreign Manpower ................................... 41
        Work Permit (WP) for Semi-skilled Foreign Manpower .......... 42
    Administrative and Legal Frameworks for Managing Foreigners .. 43
    Specific Policies Targeting Semi-skilled Foreign Workers ...... 45
    Pathways of Professional, Skilled, and Semi-skilled Foreigners 49
    Integration of Immigrants and Emigrants into the Singapore
    Society .......................................................... 50

3 Social Imperatives of Labour Migration ............................ 53
    Social Organizations in a Bangladeshi Village ..................... 55
    Claiming Social Status: From Traditional Tools to New Tools ... 57
    Relative Social Status: A Crucial Sending-End Factor .......... 60
    The Geographical Imagination: Perception of Bidesh .......... 72
    Migration, Remigration, and the Cultural Notion of Work ....... 75
    The Diminishing Role of Conventional Education ................ 76
4 Channelling Bangladeshi Migrants to Singapore

Interplay Between Networks and Institutions .......................... 80
The Migrant Network Sphere .............................................. 82
  Social Bases of Network-Assisted Migration. ....................... 82
  Formation and Operation of Migrant Networks. ..................... 84
The Recruitment Sphere .................................................... 87
  The Recruitment Structure. ............................................ 87
The Economic Aspect of Recruitment .................................... 90
Reciprocity and Migration ............................................... 100
The Other Side of Social Capital ....................................... 103

5 Social Worlds of Migrants in Singapore .......................... 105
Working Conditions ....................................................... 106
Living Situations ........................................................... 107
Medical Care ............................................................... 110
Religious Life .............................................................. 111
Migrant Poetry: A Reflection on Migrant Life ....................... 114
Migrant-Focused Organizations ......................................... 117

6 Remittance as a Social Process ....................................... 123
Data Sources ............................................................... 126
Remittance Transfer Channels ........................................... 127
Remittance Prices .......................................................... 131
Context of Remittance-Sending ......................................... 132
Context of Remittance Receiving ....................................... 133
  Recipients of Remittances ............................................ 133
  Remittance Control .................................................... 134
  Use of Remittances: The Migrant Worker’s Perspective ........... 136
  Use of Remittances: The Household’s Perspective ................. 137

7 Migration and Family Dynamics ....................................... 139
Impacts of Migration on Demographic Structure ....................... 140
Impacts of Migration on Economic Conditions ........................ 145
Impacts of Migration on Education, Medical Care, and Food Consumption ........................................... 150
Homes in Migrant Baris: Cultural Consumption and Status Display .................................................. 151
Dhadon: A Business Enterprise for Migrant Wives .................... 153
Outward and Upward Social Mobility .................................. 155
Generational Dynamics .................................................... 157

8 Conclusion ................................................................. 161
Bibliography ................................................................. 175
Index ............................................................... 191